

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2011

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **The decision to accept the price of the Billiard Tables**

Question: **33**

Hansard reference **F&PA p.46, 23 May 2011**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Senator FAULKNER: So who in the Department of Parliamentary Services makes the decision that a table or any item—let us not make it specific—is to be sold below reserve? What level of officer is tasked with that responsibility?

Mr Kenny: There are two parts to the issue. The first one is where an item is disposed of for an amount that is less than its valuation. The second one—relating to your specific question—is where it is less than the reserve.

...

Mr Kenny: The decision to accept the price would have been made by either the CFO or someone delegated within the CFO branch.

Senator FAULKNER: Well, I would like to know. In the instance of the billiard table, I would like to know precisely—

Mr Kenny: Who made the decision.

Senator FAULKNER: Yes.

Answer

- 1 The reserve price of the billiard tables (\$2,500) was above the \$1,500 book value.
- 2 At All Bids, when an item does not reach reserve at auction and any further offers still do not reach the full reserve price, All Bids contacts the vendor for a decision.
- 3 In the case of the apparent under-reserve sale of one of the billiard tables, an offer was made on the table for the full reserve, which was accepted by All Bids staff. When the person came in to pay, the sale price plus 12.5% buyer's premium was incorrectly calculated. All Bids has undertaken to reimburse DPS the \$11.12 underpayment.